

DRAFT

Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum Somm. & Lev.



Quick ID:

- ◆ A member of the carrot or parsley family, a perennial with tuberous root stalks
- ◆ Stalks and stem are hollow, stems vary from two to four inches in diameter
- ◆ May grow 15 to 20 feet tall, except for size it closely resembles native cow parsnip
- ◆ Stout dark reddish-purple stem and spotted leaf stalks

Habitat:

- ◆ May colonize a wide variety of habitats but is most common along roadsides, other rights-of-way, vacant lots, streams and rivers.

How It Got Here:

- ◆ Originally from Asia & introduced as an ornamental.
- ◆ Planted as a curiosity in European and North American private gardens early in the twentieth century

Reasons for Concern:

- ◆ Giant Hogweed is a public health hazard it's clear, watery sap has toxins that cause photo-dermatitis. Skin contact followed by exposure to sunlight produces painful, burning blisters that may develop into purplish or blackened scars.